

switching center [(16)] by means of the mobile services switching center (MSC) device control protocol.

31. (Amended) Method of claim 30, wherein after receiving the media gateway address information from the media gateway [(10)] the media gateway address information is forwarded from the mobile services switching center [(16)] via the base station controller [(14)] to the base transceiver station [(8)] for establishing a through-connection between the media gateway [(10)] and the base transceiver station [(8)] on the basis of the BTS information and the media gateway address information in order to permit direct exchange of information between the media gateway [(10)] and the base transceiver station [(8)] and vice versa.

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In the Abstract

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[The present invention relates to a]Communication network and a corresponding method are disclosed for operating the communication network that has a packet switched protocol based cellular telephone network [(1)] comprising a first layer [(3)] for transferring signalling information assigned to a telephone call being processed by the communication network, a second layer [(4)] for transferring payload information assigned to the telephone call and an interface [means (20)] for coupling the cellular telephone network [(1)] to a further network [(2)], the interface [means (20)] comprising a signalling information exchange function between the cellular telephone network [(1)] and the further network [(2)] and a payload information exchange function between the cellular telephone network [(1)] and the further network [(2)], the first layer [(3)] and the second layer [(4)] of the cellular telephone network [(1)] being coupled to the interface [means (20)], wherein the second layer [(4)] of the cellular telephone network [(1)] transfers the payload information of the telephone call to and from the interface [means (20)] on a direct route [(11)] assigned to the telephone call within the second layer [(4)].

[(figure 1)]